

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus to correctly align a foot to permit an orthotic device to be fabricated, said apparatus comprising:

 a heel support and a front foot rest positioned substantially level therewith and in front of the heel support to define a heel-toe axis in front of the heel support

 said heel support being mounted on a heel adjustment means arranged to simultaneously pivot said heel support about said heel-toe axis and move said heel support in a direction transverse to said heel-toe axis.

2. **(Original)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 and having a front foot support located on said front foot rest and able to be both rotated about said heel-toe axis and moved in a direction transverse ~~transversely~~ to said heel-toe axis.

3. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said front foot support comprises a stirrup having an appreciable extent in the direction of said heel-toe axis.

4. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein a foot plate extends between said heel support and said front foot rest and is located within said front foot support.

5. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 2 ~~[[4]]~~, wherein a deformable liner shaped to support the plantar surface of a patient's foot extends from said heel support through said front foot support.

6. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~[[5]]~~, wherein said heel adjustment means comprises a vertically extending

support having a substantially flat top over which a substantially flat rack extends, a curved rack formed on the said heel support and engaged with said flat rack, and a tilt lever arm extending from said heel support and tiltable to change the point of inter-engagement of said flat and curved racks.

7. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein a turnbuckle interconnects said tilt lever arm and a base of said vertically extending support.

8. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said tilt lever arm extends from the underside of said heel support, has a substantial vertical extent, and is carried in a slot in said flat top, the inter-engagement of said tilt lever arm and slot substantially preventing movement of said heel support in the direction of said heel-toe axis.

9. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 6~~[[8]]~~, wherein said vertically extending support is rotatable about ~~its~~ the vertical axis and releasably clampable in relation thereto to permit toe-in or toe-out adjustment of said heel-toe axis.

10. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 6~~[[9]]~~ and having a pair of said heel supports and translation means to adjust the relative distance between said heel supports in a direction substantially transverse to the heel-toe axes.

11. **(Original)** A method of casting a mould of a compensated foot whilst a patient's weight is carried by the foot, said method comprising the steps of:

a. standing the patient on a pair of spaced apart heel supports whilst

supporting the front of the patient's feet,

- b. adjusting at least the heel supports to compensate for any malalignment of the patient's feet,
- c. lifting one foot free of said heel support and applying a settable casting bandage to said foot,
- d. replacing said one foot on said heel support and, if necessary, repeating said compensation step (b),
- e. maintaining said foot in the compensated configuration until said casting bandage sets, and
- f. removing said one foot from said heel support and slipping said one foot from said set cast.

12. **(Original)** A method of casting a mould of a compensated foot whilst a patient's weight is carried by the foot, said method comprising the steps of:

- a. standing the patient on a pair of spaced apart heel supports whilst supporting the front of the patient's feet,
- b. lifting one foot free of said heel support and applying a settable casting bandage to said foot,
- c. replacing said one foot on said heel support,
- d. adjusting at least the heel supports to compensate for any malalignment of the patient's feet,
- e. maintaining said foot in the compensated configuration until said casting bandage sets, and
- f. removing said one foot from said heel support and slipping said one

foot from said set cast.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The method as claimed in claim 11 ~~or 12~~, wherein said adjusting step includes the simultaneous pivoting of at least one said heel supports about a heel-toe axis of said foot and movement of said heel support transverse to said heel-toe axis.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said adjusting step includes the additional step of adjusting the patient's forefoot by rotation thereof about said heel-toe axis and simultaneous movement substantially transverse to said heel-toe axis.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 11 ~~[[11-14]]~~ including the further step of:

~~(g)~~ g. placing a deformable liner on each of said heel supports prior to carrying out step (a).

16. **(Currently Amended)** The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 11 ~~[[11-15]]~~ and carried out for both feet of said patient in turn to thereby create two said casts.